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Sordid motives he did not understand. There was a true modesty in his relations with men. He was discriminating and judicial in criticism, and never malicious. He was emphatically a patriotic man and a good citizen. His loyalty and devotion to his clients were well known traits of his character, to which many persons in his new field of work, as well as in this section, will bear witness. He loved his home, his family, his friends, and he had a peculiarly happy way of adjusting his habits and mode of life to his surroundings, and in accepting conditions as he found them. These qualities made him an acceptable and genial companion, and those who knew Mr. Edsall well found in him a true, warm hearted and clean minded man. One whom they were bound to respect, and could trust in all things implicitly.

MERCER SLAUGHTER, born in Orange county, Virginia, February 25, 1844, died in Richmond, Virginia, May 10, 1897. Had a slight military education at the Virginia Military Institute in 1861. Entered the service of the Confederate States early in the war, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant of Artillery in Peyton's—afterwards Fry's—battery, Braxton's battalion. He was a nephew of Dr. Philip Slaughter—the eminent clergyman and historiographer of the Episcopal Church and author of many historical briefs; grandson of Philip Slaughter of the Culpeper "Minute-Men" in the Revolution; and on his mother's side a descendant of Gen. William Madison—brother of the President.

After the war Mr. Slaughter went into the railroad service, starting as baggage master, and becoming General Passenger Agent of the Virginia Midland R. R. Co., and subsequently a member of the Board of Railroad Commissioners, with headquarters at Atlanta, Georgia.

For several years prior to his death he had been engaged in collecting material for a history of the Madison and Slaughter families, and incidentally of Orange and Culpeper counties; and had amassed a large and very valuable lot of historical data from original records and manuscripts.

He was engaged in this congenial task at the State Library when he was stricken with paralysis. He survived the stroke but a few days, and our historical annals suffered a distinct and sad loss in his untimely death. His manuscripts, however, were carefully preserved, and it is hoped they may yet be published by his sole surviving son.